

the pumpkin smashing issue...



"You can kick the ass of the rich. It's just such a big ass that it takes a long time."

October 2018

Pepper Spray Times

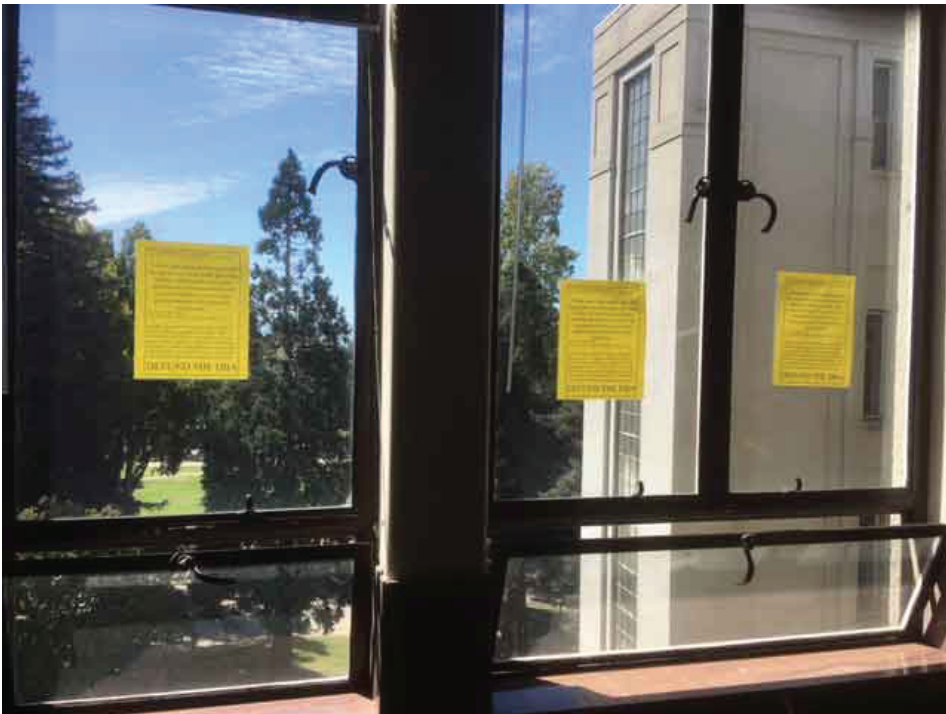


It's dissocial...it's free...if you can find it

"Warble, child, make passionate my sense of hearing.*

Vol. XIX No. 10

Fliers Surround Fifth Floor of City Hall; City Manager Declares Uneasy Truce



THE WAR ON FLIERS HEATED UP when a militant group of fliers surrounded the fifth floor of Berkeley City Hall.

By Thelma Thoul

Unruly fliers made a flier of Downtown Berkeley Association CEO's email about fliers and posted themselves on the fifth floor of City Hall.



IT'S BAFFLING HOW many people can't seem to understand that the First Amendment only applies to the government and city fliers such as this one which the DBA "ambassadors" are instructed *not* to tear down.

"It was terrifying," confided one City Hall staffer. "They were suddenly everywhere - conveying public information."

"No one could control them," added another staff member on condition of anonymity. "We couldn't stop them assembling together and we couldn't control what they had to say."

The fliers were unapologetic, explaining that they had suffered abuse

at the DBA's hands for years.

"Flier removal is not in their contract," stated one flier flatly. "That's a direct quote from the City Manager and we're still being treated like garbage."

DBA Director John Caner demurred.

"We don't treat fliers like feces. We treat fliers like feces. There's a difference."

Caner went on to clarify that his cleaning crews remove feces and that feces removal was not specifically mentioned in his contract with the City of Berkeley, either.

"We don't *have* to remove feces or fli-



"AMBASSADOR" Ricky can clarify the difference between feces and fliers for anybody who is confused about which one is which. Feces are much less likely to get the loving embrace he gives these fliers when he tears them down.

"I think most of us would agree that having the our street poles and other fixtures in Downtown and other commercial districts covered with commercial flyers is not in the general interest of the Berkeley community."

-John Caner, CEO, Downtown Berkeley Association, May 10, 2018

No, Mr. Caner. Posters and fliers are not only the sign of an active, engaged community. *They are protected speech.* You have no right to tell your green shirts to silence us, deprive us of the opportunity to attend events, learn about issues, and come together. You bought the City Council with your Business Improvement District. *But not us.*

DEFUND THE DBA

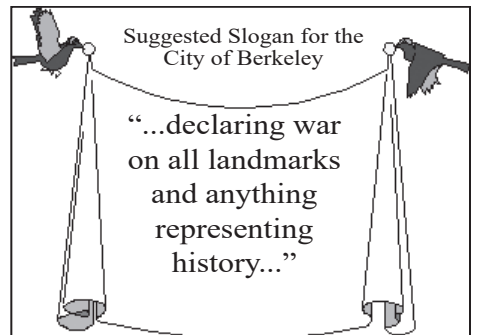
IT'S JUST SO WRONG FOR fliers to accurately quote the email between the city and the Downtown Berkeley Association CEO John Caner about spending the public's money to rip down the public's fliers. It may be unconstitutional to deprive the public of its First Amendment rights but it is so embarrassing for him.

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ers," he pointed out. "We do it because we care."

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ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I think you shouldn't defend fliers and posters. They really scare me because they might jump off a pole and obscure my windshield or my vision while I'm walking so I might get in a traffic accident or get hit by a car. You should really think more about these things.

Dear reader, Thank you so much for writing in. You're correct that this never crossed my mind. I may never sleep again.

Dear Lena, was former Mayor Shirley Dean correct when she quoted current Mayor Jesse Arreguin as saying "we must consider views" about a different matter before the council than the landmarking of Campanile Way, which was just about the roadway anyway, not the actual view? He seemed to think the view cancelled any consideration of the landmark status.

Dear reader, yes. But let's be fair. That was a *different* issue. When you have a roomful of painted-on polyester suits you just see things differently.

Dear Lena, so can we put up posters or not? I'm confused.

Dear reader, your personal, selfish confusion is nothing compared to the confusion of the poor DBA greenshirts, who have to change their perspective on posters on at least a weekly basis depending on what DBA CEO Caner thinks he can get away with. Fliers are either the equivalent of a "public safety" issue, a "garbage" issue, or a "feces" issue depending on which sliver of arcane ancient commentary from various musings of city staff or even previous city staff are cited. Opportunism is celebrated in this town, as any visit to a city council meeting proves. So consider the ambiguity in whether or not legally posting fliers, is tolerated in this peculiar city a personal, creative challenge and quit whining. *Nobody likes a whiner.*

Ask Lena about exotic pets, dubious references, and aimless wastes of copious amounts of city resources at cdenney@jgc.org.

City Council Decides the Best Way to Appreciate Campanile Way Is With Your Eyes Closed

By Fred Knot

A majority of the Berkeley City Council agreed at a recent hearing that despite Campanile Way being on the National Register of Historic Places, the idea from the Landmarks Preservation Commission that it should also be on the City of Berkeley's list of landmarks was an "ambiguous" and "confusing" effort to circumvent public processes including the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA and confound the lives of developers who wish to enhance the town and this scenic area in particular with high-end condos leavened with a few "affordable" condos for the sad, relatively poor \$100,000-a-year crowd.

"I'm concerned about this idea of the 'view'" stated one councilmember shortly after a lengthy ZAB hearing about a neighborhood squabble over views being blocked by construction. "We are not supposed to have anything to do with views."

The landmark applicant clarified that the landmark designation was for a roadway, which is exempt usually from CEQA, but concerns remained with the council majority that pedestrians on Campanile Way's passageway might look up and accidentally see the considerable view which sweeps from the hills to the bay.

The council majority swiftly dispensed with the original landmark applicant's con-



A STUDENT PETITION WITH 3,788 SUPPORTERS shouldn't stand in the way of the profitability of any developers wishing to contribute their own elements to this lovely landscape.

"Circumventing public processes is a concern we are only applying to the landmark application side of this issue," explained the City Attorney.

cern that some of the appeal petition's signatures were clearly from fake addresses.

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Ten Ways to Mess Around with Robot Food Carriers

By Laurie Turn



THIS ROBOT FOOD CARRIER is no match for any typical adventurous toddler.

- * Straddle them and watch them cry.
- * Circle them on your scooter.
- * Tell them they're taking jobs from needy people.
- * Tape a sign to them that says "I take jobs from needy people."
- * Tape a sign to them that says "I trip people who don't expect to find something the shape of a vacuum cleaner cluttering up the public sidewalk."
- * Tape a sign to them that says "I am a waste of venture capital."
- * Put a beer on them.
- * Put an adventurous toddler on them.
- * Put tape over their "eyes".
- * Tape their wheels together.

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FOR SOME REASON PEOPLE HONESTLY think that a clock tower should be visible when in fact it *obscures* the view of whatever is behind it and who cares about the time anymore.

BART Plaza Renovations Celebrate Traditional Berkeley Values of Wealth Disparity, Exclusion

By Bella Ringing



The latest BART plaza renovation is a monument to the ambiguity and confusion the Berkeley City Council recently claimed to experience regarding the apparently baffling issue of Campanile Way's landmark status.



FREE SPEECH is important unless, of course it says things like this.

Most common areas are open to the public, a public which includes both rich and poor, buskers, vendors, picnickers, and people just hanging out enjoying the weather. But under the careful planning of the Downtown Berkeley Association and the new Chief Cultural Affairs Officer, Jennifer Lovvorn, the City of Berkeley is trying to simultaneously argue that the plaza's sidewalks are "obstructed" by unpermitted objects while at the same time being "underutilized" and in need of "activation."



THE DBA'S CEO JOHN CANER says stuff like this "ambassador" tearing down a legally posted community flier is just fake news and isn't really happening.

"It's a tough needle to thread," smiled Lovvorn about the anti-busking/no-live-music segment of the "activation".

"We'll have eight poles on the plaza, with very high-tech speakers, and we have commissioned a series of artists to create sound compositions...running for two months."

The speakers on poles controlled by the DBA avert problematic, unpredictable mu-



THIS DOLLAR SIGN HOMAGE TO ROCK BALANCING is a thoughtful combination of local beach traditions and recognition that the downtown area benefits from the Downtown Berkeley Association's policy of welcoming high-end shoppers and conventioners while discouraging pan-handlers and people who sit around in the sun without spending any money.

sic from taking place in public and eliminates the issue of needing to have any pesky artists or musicians actually interacting or being physically present on the plaza.

"Artists are dangerous," explained one City Hall insider. "They're demanding and challenging. Our design will eliminate any public participation and carefully vet anyone interested through a lengthy application and point process which then gets a recommendation and then approved by our

commission, then sent to council.

Critics objected that spontaneous music and community events are precluded by such a process, but were dismissed.

"Wealthy people like predictability," explained the DBA's John Caner. "And they don't like being panhandled. Oh, and those photographs of ambassadors tearing down fliers are not really real, they are photo-shopped and it is all fake news."

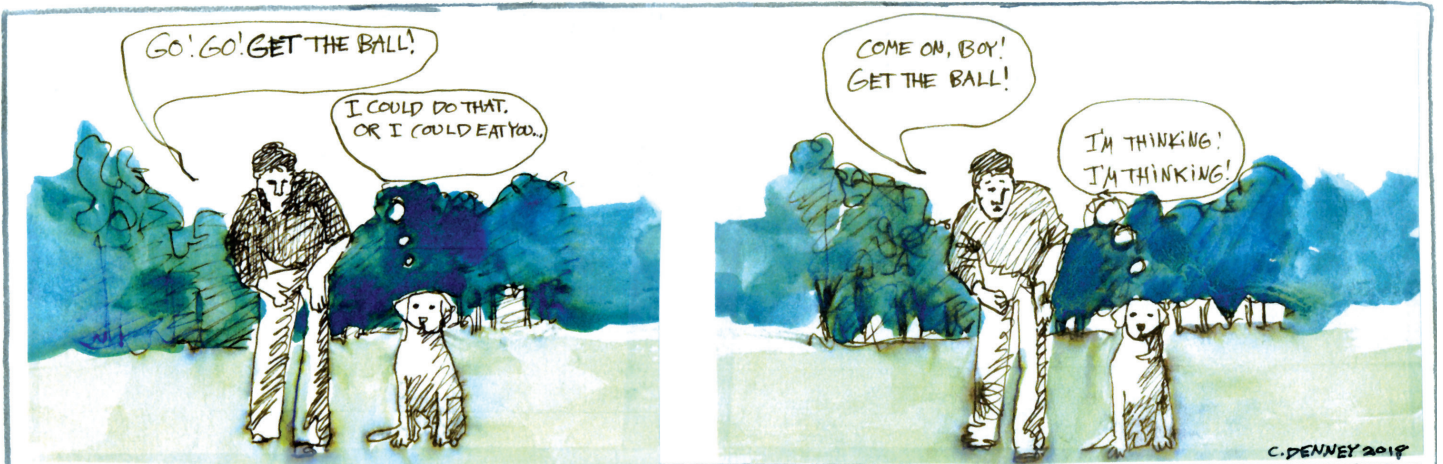
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THIS DOLLAR SIGN WAS CAREFULLY CHOSEN from among a diverse local group of artists who submitted their designs in a public process carefully shielded from the general public so that problematic suggestions like public toilets could be carefully controlled, unlike human needs.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



C. DENNEY 2018

